

## HIGH-PRICED 'PHONE SERVICE GROWS WORSE.

Demand for a Five-Cent Rate is Made in This City and a Radical Improvement of the Methods.

New York Far Behind Other Cities in the Matter of Cost and Convenience—Monopoly's Absurd Claims.

Declares the More Business the Greater Cost, and Yet is Constantly Soliciting Subscribers.

(New York Journal.)

It is the persistent boast of the New York Telephone Company, the local branch of the telephone monopoly which extends all over the United States, that the equipment and service in this city is the finest in the world. The fact that telephone service in New York costs more than similar service anywhere else on earth should form justification for this boast. As a matter of fact there is not a second class city in the United States that has not a better service, and the New York service is growing poorer all the time.

Not only is the mechanical service bad, but the employees are insolent and inefficient. To call a number, get it and complete a conversation without exasperating delays and interruptions is the exception rather than the rule. A protest is met with a cheap quality of repartee from the girl in the central office, and a call on the manager generally results in gratuitous advice relative to the "freshness" of the unfortunate compelled to use the telephone.

The rate for a telephone in this city is \$240 a year. The charge for a single call in the Borough of Manhattan is ten cents for five minutes' conversation. The capital stock of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company is \$75,000,000, of which about \$23,000,000 is paid in. The corporation has paid in dividends in twenty years nearly \$50,000,000—almost twice as much as the legitimate capital stock.

The time has come in New York for five-cent telephone calls and a service that will be a service and not a burlesque, as it is at present. Numerous fights have been made in the Legislature for a telephone service that would be reasonable in price and allow persons desiring to converse over the wires an opportunity to do so without difficulty.

LOBBY HAS BEEN ACTIVE.

The lobby of the New York Telephone Company and of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has prevented the passage of these bills. The telephone people have asserted that they are giving as cheap a service as possible, and they have set up the monstrous claim that the more business they do the more expensive becomes the operation of the system.

A legislative committee, two years ago, showed the falsity of this contention, but the New York Telephone Company sticks to it; nevertheless the New York Telephone Company has an army of solicitors out over the city all the time, striving to increase business. The telephone officials are placed in the anomalous position of stating that the present rates are reasonable and are barely paying expenses, and still hustling for more business in order that they may incur more expense and cut down the profits. If the statement of the New York Telephone Company is true it must, with the increase of business, eventually operate at a loss.

That five cents is ample charge for a telephone conversation of five minutes has been proven in many cities in the United States. That perfect service can be maintained at the figure has been demonstrated in many cities, large and small.

That a five-cent rate, to apply throughout Greater New York, would pay, is the judgment of experts who have built and operated at a profit lines charging that sum.

OPPOSITION HAS CUT RATES.

Wherever the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has met with opposition it has cut rates to meet the opposition. It has gone so far as to reduce telephone rates in many cities to the point where the company is making money. In some cities the American Telephone and Telegraph Company has been competing for years with independent companies that charge but 5 cents for a message, and the business has paid in those cities.

In Pittsburgh, Pa., there is an excellent telephone service, controlled by the Pittsburgh and Allegheny Telephone Company. The cost to subscribers is from \$20 to \$25 a year and the company is making money. The exchanges are equipped with the latest improvements, there is no difficulty in securing connections, and conversation over the wires is clear and uninterrupted by incompetent operators.

lines of both companies. The independent company is making money, the competition has forced the monopoly company to put in a perfect service, and Charleston never had so many telephone subscribers.

The cry of the New York Telephone Company is that it costs more to operate a system in New York than in does in any of the places mentioned; that while a five-cent rate might pay in Charleston, it would be ruinous in New York, and that the poor "widows and orphans" holding stock would be robbed.

IT REALLY COSTS LESS.

As a matter of fact it costs less, when the number of subscribers is taken into consideration, to operate the New York service than it does in any other city. The New York Telephone Company up to a short time ago had a monopoly of the subways. Beyond the cost of construction its gigantic web of wires in this city did not cost a cent. In most of the cities where cheap telephones prevail telephones are furnished free to the city offices. New York city departments pay to the telephone monopoly about \$23,000 a year for telephone service.

A system of telephone service that would allow a customer to put a nickel in a slot, secure a connection and hold a five minutes' conversation, would pay in New York, and the time to inaugurate such a system is right now.

## Cures Weak Men Free

INSURES LOVE AND A HAPPY HOME FOR ALL.

How any man may quickly cure himself after years of suffering from sexual weakness, lost vitality, night losses, varicocele, etc., and enlarge small weak organs to full size and vigor. Simply send your name and address to Dr. L. W. Knapp, 794 Hull Bldg., Detroit, Mich., and he will gladly send the free receipt with full directions so that any man may easily cure himself at home. This is certainly a most generous offer and the following extracts taken from his daily mail show what men think of his generosity.

Dear Sir:—Please accept my sincere thanks for yours of recent date. I have given your treatment a thorough test and the benefit has been extraordinary. It has completely braced me up. I am just as vigorous as when a boy, and you cannot realize how happy I am.

"Dear Sir:—Your method worked beautifully. Results were exactly what I needed. Strength and vigor have completely returned and enlargement is entirely satisfactory."

"Dear Sir:—Yours was received and I had no trouble making use of the receipt as directed and am truly saying it is a boon to weak men. I am greatly improved in size, strength and vigor. All correspondents are strictly confidential, mailed in plain sealed envelope. The receipt is free for the asking and he wants every man to have it."

seals-17

## A. WRENN & SONS

24 to 40 Union Street.

NORFOLK, - VIRGINIA.

MANUFACTURERS OF

UP-TO-DATE

Pleasure Vehicles.

AND BUSINESS WAGONS OF ALL KINDS.

Our Wire Wheel, Rubber Tire Runabouts and Surreys are the Handsome and Best.

Largest variety ever shown in these parts.

PRICES LOW! QUALITY HIGH!

LARGE STOCK OF—

HARNESS ...

AND OTHER

Horse Goods.

Something In the Pipe

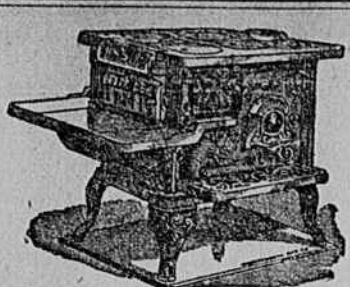
which should not be there. Something wrong with the PLUMBING perhaps, which will require repairing by the skilled plumber. Those who favor us with their orders will be glad to meet our prices. We do all work promptly and well, and at minimum prices.

Kelly, Thornton & Williams,

Northwest corner Bank and Washington Streets.

New Phone 1640. Old Phone 554.

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## Why Pay Enormous Prices

for your cooking stove or range, when you can buy direct from the factory and save one-third of the cost?

Write for catalogue and full particulars.

Manufacturers of the celebrated

## FITZ LEE COOKING STOVE.

ADDRESS OR CALL ON

SOUTHERN STOVE-WORKS,

815 to 827 North Seventeenth St

-RICHMOND VA.

Freh Land Plasters

AUGUST 12.

NOW LANDING.

COAL TAR

PINE TAR

in oil, pork and pine barrels

Shell Lime

No. 1 Rock Lime

JOHN O. GAMAGE

WOODSIDE'S WHARF.

Norfolk Iron Works,

GEO. W. DUVAL & CO.

NO. 15 WATER STREET, NORFOLK.

ALL KINDS OF MACHINERY OF THE MOST IMPROVED PATTERNS. Also repairing at the shortest notice. Particular attention to steamboilers, engines, pumps, etc.

BOILER TUBE FURFULES are the only perfect remedy for leaky boiler tubes. They can be inserted in a few minutes by an engineer, and are warranted to stop leaks.

THE NEW LINE.

Norfolk and Atlantic Terminal COMPANY.

The following schedule, effective 7:45 A. M., SEPTEMBER 15th, 1900. Close connection made at Old Point with Electric trains for Phoebus, Hampton, and Newport News.

Week Days—6:45 a. m., 10:45 a. m., 3:00 p. m., 5:30 p. m., 1:30 a. m., 1:30 p. m., 3:30 p. m.

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## DOUBLE DAILY SERVICE

SHORT LINE TO THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF THE SOUTH.

ATLANTA, NEW ORLEANS, AUGUSTA, SAVANNAH, CHARLOTTE, NASHVILLE, MEMPHIS, TEXAS, CALIFORNIA, JACKSONVILLE, TAMPA, MIAMI, FLORIDA, EAST COAST AND THE ENTIRE SOUTH.

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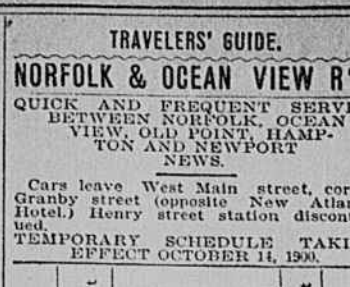
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## QUICK AND FREQUENT SERVICE

BETWEEN NORFOLK, OCEAN VIEW, OLD POINT COMFORT, TON AND NEWPORT NEWS.

Cars leave West Main street, corner Granby street (opposite New Atlantic Hotel), Henry street station discontinued.

TEMPORARY SCHEDULE TAKING EFFECT OCTOBER 14, 1900.

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